

Indiana First Steps Newsletter

August 2015

Newsletter Instructions/Information

- **The May 2015 newsletter is still available to take until August 17, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. You may access the May newsletter here: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4986.htm>.** Moving forward, newsletters will be released toward the beginning of the month each quarter.
- Please read all newsletter content thoroughly.
- Follow the link at the bottom of the newsletter to take the online assessment. You must pass the assessment with a score of 80% or above. **Be sure you click through until you receive the results of your quiz.** Once you reach the page that displays your score, you can be assured that your score has been recorded.
- Once you have passed the quiz, **please print out the completion page with your score for your records.** Please write your name and date on this sheet as it will not appear on the print out. Keep this for your training records. You do not need to send a copy of this documentation with your credentialing packet.
- You will **not** receive an email confirmation of your completion of the newsletter quiz. Your score will be captured electronically, and will be utilized to verify your completion when your credentialing packet is received by Provider Enrollment.
- The deadline to complete the August 2015 Indiana First Steps Newsletter training requirement is November 2, 2015 at 11:59 p.m.
- Successful completion of the Newsletter quiz continues to be worth .2 points for credentialing.
- **Newsletter archives and make-up quizzes are now available at the following link: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4986.htm>.** When taking a make-up quiz, please send answers to firststepsweb@fssa.in.gov to be graded.

DSP 102 & 103 Trainings

Direct Service Provider 102 & 103 will be offered on August 18, 2015. Providers may attend either or both sessions. The trainings will be held in Indianapolis at the Indiana Government Center. Please send an RSVP email to firststepsweb@fssa.in.gov if you will be attending.

- **DSP 102: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Indiana Government Center**
- **DSP 103: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Indiana Government Center**

Family Engagement & Cultural Competence

First Steps Ongoing Evaluation and Quality Improvement Updates

How many of you have heard of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)? The SSIP is a multi-year plan required by the U. S. Department of Education to improve the results of state early intervention systems, including Indiana's First Steps Early Intervention System. This past year we successfully we completed **Phase I**. Staff from the Early Childhood Center at Indiana University conducted a series of extensive data analyses and engaged state and local First Steps stakeholders in multiple discussions focused on identifying possible child outcome areas needing improvement. Through these analyses and numerous state and local discussions, a **State-identified Measurable Results (SiMR)** outcome was identified and approved by the federal education department. Indiana's SiMR is:

Increase the percentage of low income and African American children showing greater than expected growth in all three child outcomes, but particularly social-emotional development.

To address this outcome, the following **improvement strategies** were proposed:

1. *Align and leverage state evaluation and continuous quality improvement efforts* to focus on improving results for all children and the proposed SiMR.
2. Introduce and *implement a new statewide Family Assessment tool* and procedure for adoption by all First Steps intake and service coordinators to better assess the concerns, resource needs, and priorities of all families.
3. *Focus professional development resources* for service coordinators and ongoing service providers to increase their knowledge and skills related to family engagement, cultural diversity, and adult learning approaches.
4. *Examine current funding policies/procedures* and determine if changes are needed to promote more effective service delivery and address identified needs of target children and families.
5. *Adopt a coordination of care approach* in which First Steps collaborates with other home visiting programs in Indiana (e.g., Children with Special Health Care Needs, Early Head Start, and Healthy Families) to better address the comprehensive needs of the target children and families.
6. Work with the Indiana Department of Education to *promote more effective transition practices between First Steps and preschool special education* programs for all children, but particularly for low-income and African American children.

We are now in **Phase II**. In this phase, we will focus on putting the strategies listed above into action and evaluating their effectiveness. This phase includes activities, steps, and resources required to implement the improvement strategies with attention to the research on evidence-based practices and implementation, timelines for implementation, and measures needed to evaluate implementation and impact of the SiMR for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

We will be soliciting stakeholder feedback during Phase II, including the next meeting of the State Interagency Coordinating Council on August 12. Please plan to attend and stay tuned to see how else you can help during the next few months. You may check our website additional information about Indiana's First Steps SSIP- <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/first-steps-planning>.

Quality Review Team Update

Continuing the discussion of the State Systemic Improvement Plan goals, the article linked to below addresses family engagement with minority populations. Please be sure to read the article thoroughly as the competency assessment questions are primarily focused upon this content.

[Culture Counts: Engaging Black and Latino Parents of Young Children in Family Support Programs.](#)

Online First Steps Core Trainings

First Steps Core Trainings and the orientation trainings DSP 101 and SC 101 continue to be available online at <http://www.eikids.com/in/matrix/UnifiedTraining.asp>. Once you have completed the training video/presentation, you will need to download and complete the competency assessment that is located below the link for the training and attestation page.

Please send only your answers to the competency assessment to the First Steps Web at firststepsweb@fssa.in.gov. Submission of, and a passing score of 80% or above, is the method by which your completion will be verified. You will receive a confirmation email when your competency assessment has been graded.

The trainings available online and their credentialing point values are as follows:

- FSCT – AEPS Part 1: Understanding and Using the AEPS
 - (.3 points)
- FSCT – The Science of Infant Brain Development
 - (.4 points)
- FSCT – Inclusion in Early Care and Education Training
 - (.3 points)
- FSCT – Providing Early Intervention Supports and Services in Natural Environments
 - (.5 points)
- FSCT – Family Centered Approach to Procedural Safeguards
 - (.4 points)
- FSCT – Professional Boundaries and Ethics in Home Visiting
 - (.3 points)
- FSCT – Positive Transitions for Children and Families in Early Intervention
 - (.3 points)
- Direct Service Provider 101
 - (1.0 points)
- Service Coordination 101
 - (2.0 points)

August 2015 Indiana First Steps Newsletter Assessment

Follow this link https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8AJ46a4JXUZZ9Fr to the Newsletter quiz. Completion of this quiz with a passing score of 80% is required in order to fulfill the newsletter requirement for initial and annual credentialing.

- Please be sure that you click through to the last page with your quiz results, and **be sure to print this page for your records**. You will need to retain this as supporting documentation should you be chosen for a quality review audit.
- Your name will not appear on the results page. Please write your name and the date completed on your print out.